GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1492
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2008
LICENCES THROUGH AUCTION
Jha Shri Raghunath

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recommended to issue licences and radio frequencies through auction and not on a first-come-first-served basis;

(b) if so, whether Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has in contravention of TRAI`s recommendations decided to issue licences for 2G spectrum on a first-come-first-served basis;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is inquiring into the matter; and

(e) if so, the findings thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) & (c) No, Sir. However, the Government has decided to grant new Unified Access Services (UAS) Licenses to applicant companies as per the existing UAS Licence guidelines dated 14.12.2005. UAS Licences are issued on first come first serve basis. The UAS licences are to be issued without any cap on number of operators in a service area as per recommendations dated 28.08.2007 of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

(d) & (e) Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) had raised some queries on spectrum and licence related issues and necessary information was provided to the CVC.